

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for interfacing to a telephone line comprising:

an RJ 11 port;

means for automatically determining whether an RJ 11 connector inserted into said the RJ11 port is connected to ~~an end-user~~ non-telephonic equipment or to ~~network~~ telephonic equipment[[,]]; and

means, responsive to said the means for determining, for automatically configuring said the RJ11 port to interface to either ~~an end-user~~ the non-telephonic equipment or a telephone network.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said the RJ 11 port resides on a circuit ~~board~~ card, said the circuit card having electronics for interfacing to ~~end user~~ with the non-telephonic equipment and a the telephone network, and a switching matrix responsive to said the means for automatically determining that selectively switches the electronics for interfacing to the telephone network or to the ~~end-user~~ non-telephonic equipment.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a signal produced by an RJ 11 connector inserted into an RJ 11 port, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

detecting whether the RJ 11 connector is attached to a ~~telephone network~~ telephonic equipment or to ~~end-user~~ non-telephonic equipment[[,]]; and, in response thereto, connecting different electronics to said port

configuring the RJ 11 port to interface with a telephone network, if the connector is attached to the telephonic equipment; and

configuring the RJ 11 port to interface with the non-telephonic equipment, if the connector is attached to the non-telephonic equipment.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an interval timer, to isolate loop voltage being supplied by a SLIC circuit, if the RJ 11 port is configured to interface with non-telephonic equipment, wherein the RJ 11 port is reconfigured to interface with the telephone network if external loop voltage indicating a connection to a telephone network is detected during the isolation.

7. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the telephone network comprises a private branch exchange.

8. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the telephone network comprises a public switched telephone network.

9. (New) The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
isolating loop voltage being supplied by the non-telephonic equipment, if the RJ 11 port is configured to interface with the non-telephonic equipment;  
determining whether external loop voltage is present, wherein the external loop voltage indicates a connection with the telephone network; and  
configuring the RJ 11 port to interface with the telephone network, if the external loop voltage is detected.
10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein configuring the RJ 11 port to interface with the telephone network, if the external loop voltage is detected, comprises configuring the RJ 11 port as a DAA port.
11. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein configuring the RJ 11 port to interface with the telephone network, if the connector is attached to the telephonic equipment, comprises configuring the RJ 11 port as a DAA port.
12. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein configuring the RJ 11 port to interface with the non-telephonic equipment, if the connector is attached to the non-telephonic equipment, comprises configuring the RJ 11 port as a SLIC port.

13. (New) An apparatus for interfacing with a telephone line comprising:  
a subscriber line interface circuit (SLIC) port;  
means for automatically determining whether a connector inserted into the SLIC port is  
connected to non-telephonic equipment or to telephonic equipment; and  
means, responsive to the means for determining, for automatically configuring the SLIC  
port to interface to either the non-telephonic equipment or to a telephone network.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the SLIC port resides on a circuit card,  
the circuit card having electronics for interfacing to the non-telephonic equipment and the  
telephone network, and a switching matrix responsive to the means for automatically determining  
that selectively switches the electronics for interfacing to the telephone network or to the non-  
telephonic equipment.

15. (New) A method of processing a signal produced by a connector inserted into a  
subscriber line interface circuit (SLIC) port, the method comprising:  
detecting whether the connector is attached to telephonic equipment or to non-telephonic  
equipment;  
configuring the SLIC port to interface with a telephone network, if the connector is  
attached to the telephonic equipment; and  
configuring the SLIC port to interface with the non-telephonic equipment, if the connector  
is attached to the non-telephonic equipment.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein configuring the SLIC port to interface with the telephone network comprises configuring the SLIC port as a DAA port.

17. (New) A circuit card, comprising:

an RJ 11 port;

a detection unit to determine whether an RJ 11 connector inserted into the RJ11 port is connected to non-telephonic equipment or to telephonic equipment;

a telephonic-interface transformation unit, to configure the RJ 11 port to interface with a telephone network, if the connector is attached to the telephonic equipment; and

a non-telephonic-interface transformation unit, to configure the RJ 11 port to interface with the non-telephonic equipment, if the connector is attached to the non-telephonic equipment.

18. (New) The circuit card of claim 17, wherein the telephone network comprises a private branch exchange.

19. (New) The circuit card of claim 17, wherein the telephone network comprises a public switched telephone network.

20. (New) The circuit card of claim 17, wherein the non-telephonic equipment comprises a personal computer.

21. (New) The circuit card of claim 17, wherein the non-telephonic equipment comprises a fax machine.

22. (New) The circuit card of claim 17, wherein the telephonic equipment comprises a telephone.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the non-telephonic equipment comprises a personal computer.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the non-telephonic equipment comprises a fax machine.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the telephonic equipment comprises a telephone.